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CARDINAL FILE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Poland

DATE DISTR. 28 August 1953

SUBJECT 1. Ammunition Depot near Opole
2. Tractor Repair Shop at Komprachcice

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1. Prior to May 1952, an ammunition depot, which was guarded by Polish sentries wearing blue gray uniforms, was 1.5 km south-southeast of the town of Fruehauf (Ochodze, P 51/J 17) in the woods on the east side of the road from Fruehauf to Proskau (P 51/J 16). The installation was a former German Army ammunition depot, which the local population knew from the time of the last war. [redacted] the depot remained undestroyed at the end of the war, was used first by the Soviets and was turned over to the Poles presumably in 1951. Polish guards were observed after that time. The depot extended over about 500 meters along the road. [redacted] [redacted] no installations except the guarded entrance and about four low buildings, one of which mounted a high smokestack. [redacted] the spring of 1952 [redacted] at the depot about five Polish Armed Forces trucks, which were loaded with ammunition boxes and travelled in the direction of Fruehauf. 1

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2. On the strength of observations made before April 1952 [redacted] the government-controlled tractor repair shop in Gumpertsdorf (Kommunistisches, P 51/J 17) near Orpeln (P 51/J 17) was scheduled to be taken over by the Polish Armed Forces. In the summer of 1951, the shop was inspected and surveyed by a Polish officers' commission. [redacted]

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The transfer of the shop to the Polish Armed Forces was imminent. The repair shop was directly southeast of the Gumpertsdorf railroad station on the east side of the Fruehauf road. Workers said that the installation formerly was a German Army tank repair shop, which remained undamaged during the war. Prior to April 1952, the designation of the repair shop was "TOR" (Techniczna Obsługa Rolnicza, which is translated: Agricultural technical service). The installation repaired exclusively tractors and bulldozers from the whole of Poland and also tested, and broke in, the engines of tractors supplied from Czechoslovakia and the USSR. At about the turn of 1951 and 1952, independent branches were established in other Polish towns to relieve the repair shop. The labor force at the installation in Gumpertsdorf numbered 300 to 400 men.²

1. Comment. The installation presumably is the former German Army ammunition depot in Oppeln.

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